

WYOMING PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

2009 Strategic Plan

Results Statement:

- Wyoming families and individuals live in a stable, safe, supportive, nurturing, healthy environment.
- Wyoming state government is a responsible steward of State assets and effectively responds to the needs of residents and guests.

Contribution to Wyoming Quality of Life:

- Develop recommendations for policy and guidelines, identify technology and standards, and coordinate intergovernmental resources to facilitate statewide wireless communications interoperability with emphasis on public safety.

Commission Facts:

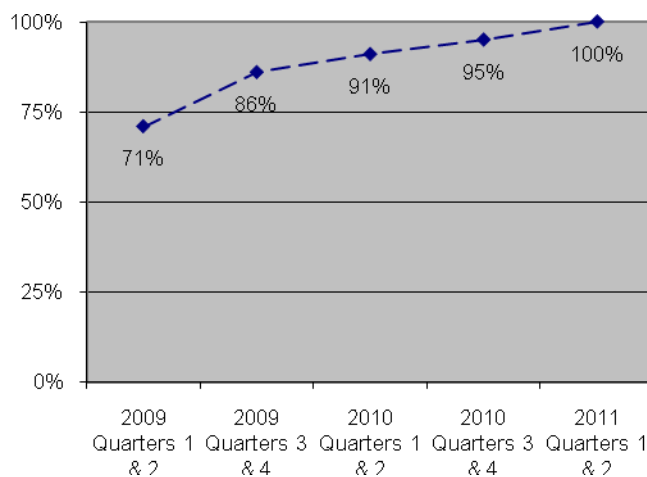
The Public Safety Communications Commission (PSCC) was created in 2004 by the Wyoming Legislature from the former State Agency Law Enforcement Communications System (SALECS) and Public Safety Mobile Communications (PSMC) Steering Committee. The PSCC has seventeen members appointed by the governor to three-year terms representing State of Wyoming Agencies, public safety associations and the general public. The 2009-2010 proposed biennium budget for the PSCC is \$203,401. The budget includes one staff support position for \$172,459, supportive services budget of \$10,477, network and telecommunications of \$7,465 and professional fees of \$13,000.

Six Primary Functions of the Commission:

1. Work with the administrator of the information technology division of the department of administration and information and the department of transportation in an advisory capacity to promote the development, improvement and efficiency of public safety communications systems in the state.
2. Report in writing each year in October to the governor concerning any problems related to the installation, operation and maintenance of the system and shall make any recommendations it deems appropriate as part of the report.

3. Submit a plan for statewide system networking to the administrator of the information technology division for inclusion in the statewide telecommunications plan developed pursuant to W.S. 9-2-1026.1(a)
4. In cooperation with participating federal agencies, establish and assess user fees upon any federal law enforcement agency electing to use and participate in the system.
5. Promulgate necessary rules and regulations governing system operation and participation and upon failure to comply with adopted rules and regulations, may suspend system use and participation by any participating and non-complying public safety agency or private entity.
6. Determine the participation of public safety agencies and private agencies in the wireless communications network.

Performance Measure #1 **Percentage of WyoLink Project Core Sites Completed**



Story behind the performance:

The Request for Proposals (RFP) for the WyoLink infrastructure was issued on July 15, 2004, and competitively awarded to Motorola on October 29, 2004. With the \$50,447,011 funding provided through the Wyoming Legislative General Fund and other sources, WyoLink will provide a 57 site, VHF, project 25, trunked radio system with resources for integrated voice and data providing automatic vehicle location and mobile data technology. The core system is being developed using radio sites and microwave links established by WYDOT. Completion of the core system statewide is slated for the end of 2010. As of July 1, 2009, 40 WyoLink sites are activated and the City of Cheyenne Fire-Rescue 800 MHz site has been upgraded and is

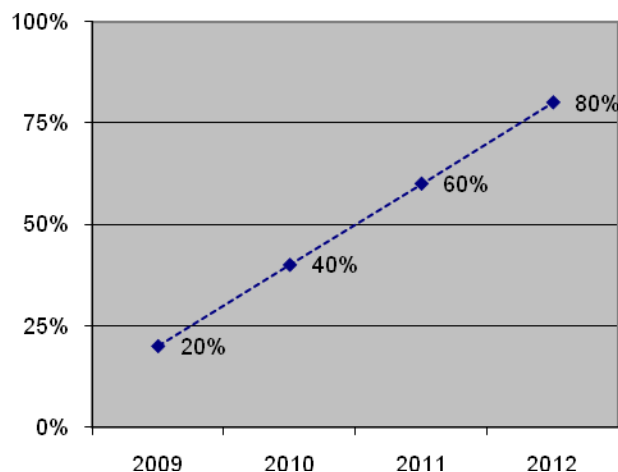
operating on WyoLink. More radio sites are planned for WyoLink system expansion and portable coverage enhancement.

On June 12, 2009, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) provided 75 Radio Frequency Authorizations which allows WyoLink to share Federal frequencies to complete the frequency plan. With this addition to FCC licensed spectrum, WyoLink was able to provide the minimum of five channels per WyoLink radio site.

What do we propose to do to improve performance in the next two years?

- Four WyoLink radio sites are constructed and upon receipt of the licenses from the FCC, for the use of Federal spectrum, these sites will be operational.
- Six WyoLink radio sites are scheduled for construction in 2009.
- Upon the completion of the leasing process with the Bridger/Teton and Big Horn National Forests, five radio sites are scheduled for completion in 2010.
- The PSCC, WyoLink and Natrona County/Casper are working toward the conversion of the 800 MHz site on Casper Mountain to become a WyoLink radio site.
- Continue building out funded WyoLink expansion and portable coverage enhancement sites.

Performance Measure #2
Percentage of Potential WyoLink Participants Who Are Participating



Story behind the performance:

The PSCC has approved WyoLink membership for 123 agencies who may be called upon to serve as first responders to disasters and other emergencies. The approved agencies include police departments, sheriff offices, fire departments, ambulance services, municipalities, county

agencies, school districts, several state agencies, federal agencies and the military. As agencies are approved, membership agreements or memorandums of understanding are drafted and signed. Once the agreements have been executed, planning for WyoLink migration and talkgroup development is started. A WyoLink readiness document has been developed which lists seven topics that must be completed; signed membership agreement, coverage planning, interoperability planning, subscriber planning, dispatch operation planning, user training and cutover to WyoLink.

WyoLink is intended to serve the radio communications needs of Wyoming's potential first responders, for day-to-day and special incident operations. Homeland Security Presidential Directive-8, issued in 2003 in regard to National Preparedness, provides the scope of intended WyoLink membership. *The term "first responder" refers to those individuals who in the early stages of an incident are responsible for the protection and preservation of life, property, evidence, and the environment, including emergency response providers as defined in section 2 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101), as well as emergency management, public health, clinical care, public works, and other skilled support personnel (such as equipment operators) that provide immediate support services during prevention, response, and recovery operations.*

The Wyoming Office of Homeland Security has received two grants to help provide end user training; Public Safety Interoperable Communications Grant and Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant Program. These grants will provide the funding necessary to provide end user training at the agency level. The Wyoming Fire Marshal's Office and the Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy have identified contract Master Trainers and eight trainers have completed the WyoLink and interoperable train-the-trainer classes.

The Wyoming Legislature provided \$6,450,000 as grant funds for local dispatch centers to prepare for connectivity to WyoLink. The PSCC has provided grant funds to dispatch centers in every county. As of July 1, 2009, 50% of the grant funds have been expended. The dispatch centers have until June 30, 2010 to expend these grant funds.

The PSCC issued the following policy statement on June 22, 2007: *"There is no local responder link in "WyoLink" until the goal of mobile and portable radio communications interoperability is achieved. Therefore, the goal of WyoLink coverage enhancement is to achieve interoperable public safety communications comparable with existing portable radio coverage and in areas of critical concern, identified through testing and cooperative efforts with local public safety providers, determined after statewide deployment in an area. There is an expectation of local participation within the jurisdictional area of influence."*

The Wyoming Legislature has provided \$8,030,000 to fund expansion of the core WyoLink system for local responder portable coverage. These funds are for the radio frequency and communications portion of developing up to 22 areas of concern. The Governor and Legislature recognized the need for local participation in the development of the expansion sites and provided another \$4,000,000 in grant funds, which will be administered by the PSCC, for financial assistance to the localities for the development of radio sites to include site leasing,

tower, building, and power. The PSCC is working with counties and cities on coverage testing and site planning.

What do we propose to do to improve performance in the next two years?

- Review and revise, as needed, rules, policies, procedures, handbook and membership agreement for WyoLink participants. No/low cost.
- Work with the Wyoming Office of Homeland Security, Wyoming Fire Marshal's Office and Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy on providing end user training at the local level.
- Continue full time administrative staff position for the Public Safety Communications Commission. See Appendix A below.
- Provide outreach and education to political subdivision with regard to WyoLink and the benefits of an interoperable communication system.
- Continue quarterly newsletter and maintain websites with current WyoLink information

**Performance Measure #3
WyoLink Support Funding**

Story behind the performance:

Prior budgets have provided for one time funding to establish & provide basic support for WyoLink for a short duration. Now that the core system is approaching completion, and recurring costs are better understood, it is time to provide recurring funding in the legislative base budget, to support broad local agency participation in WyoLink: Wyoming's statewide public safety interoperable radio communications system.

What do we propose to do to improve performance in the next two years?

- Support the WYDOT/WyoLink biennium budget request for: WyoLink Contracted Support Costs - \$1,150,000; T1 Circuits for local agency console connections - \$4,400,000; T1 Circuits for Coverage Enhancement Sites - \$660,000; Helicopter Access to the WyoLink Site at Pow-Wow Point - \$108,000.

Budget Explanation:

The 2008-2009 biennium exception budget request provided \$152,849 for initial post-warranty contracted support costs. That amount will carry the system through Summer 2010, but WyoLink needs a base budget for ongoing contract support. The initial long range budget estimate of about \$500K/yr for ongoing support of the core system was close, but more precise costs are now available, and system expansions will eventually increase those costs. WyoLink is using WYDOT Telecommunications personnel to provide many of the support services to reduce the support costs.

Similarly, earlier budgets provided a onetime budget for leased communication line expenses in support of local agency participation on WyoLink; a base budget is now needed to pay ongoing leased line costs for the console connections, and for planned local area portable coverage enhancement sites. WYDOT is pursuing microwave system expansions to reduce leased circuit costs in time, but funding is needed until these expansions can be implemented and leased circuits are reduced.

WyoLink is also requesting \$ \$108,000 for the 2011-2012 biennium to provide helicopter access to the WyoLink site at Pow Wow Point in northern Lincoln County; this site is crucial to meet local agency coverage needs. It is in a roadless area, and it will be the only WyoLink site where access is only by foot, horse or helicopter, year-round.

Appendix A: Administrative Staff Position Essential Duties:

- Facilitate and monitor overall strategic planning to include state and local components of interoperability.
- Establish a liaison with and represent the PSCC to stakeholders.
- Create and disseminate components of a statewide awareness campaign targeting stakeholders.
- Coordinate and support PSCC meetings and activities.
- Inform the PSCC on developments relative to wireless communications, emerging technologies and standards, spectrum policy/management and federal interoperability initiatives.
- Develop long-term technical and policy recommendations to establish the development and implementation of WyoLink.
- Statewide Interoperability Coordinator for Wyoming, The National Emergency Communications Plan, July 2008, and Federal communication grants recommend all states and territories establish full-time statewide interoperability coordinators..